

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5211
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 11337

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, IS, XF
SUBJECT: CHIEF SETTLEMENT PLANNER CALLS PALESTINIAN STATE
ACCEPTABLE

1. SUMMARY: ISRAEL'S CHIEF SETTLEMENTS PLANNER HAS
STIRRED UP A HORNET'S NEST BY SETTING FORTH A FIVE-YEAR
SETTLEMENT PROGRAM WHICH ENVISAGES THE POSSIBLE CREATION
OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. RAANAN WEITZ'S PLAN
CALLS FOR INTENSIFICATION OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE JORDAN
VALLEY AND RAFAH APPROACHES, WHICH HE BELIEVES WOULD
EFFECTIVELY SEAL OFF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP FROM RE-
MILITARIZATION AND REND THEM HARMLESS TO ISRAEL. IN
CHALLENGING THE ONLY ARTICLE OF FAITH ON WHICH THERE IS
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VIRTUAL UNANIMITY IN ISRAEL, WEITZ MAY HAVE FATALLY UNDER-
MINED HIS EFFECTIVENESS AND INADVERTENTLY ADDED FURTHER
IMPETUS TO THE GUSH EMUNIM DRIVE TO SETTLE JUDEA AND
SAMARIA. END SUMMARY

2. PROFESSOR RAANAN WEITZ, HEAD OF THE SETTLEMENT DIVISION
OF THE JEWISH AGENCY (AND, CONCURRENTLY, OF THE SETTLEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION), SUBMITTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER LAST WEEK A LONG-RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENT WHICH CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 102 NEW SETTLEMENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. NONE OF THESE WOULD BE LOCATED IN THE DENSELY INHABITED AREAS OF THE WEST BANK, I.E. JUDEA AND SAMARIA, WHERE THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ITS SETTLEMENTS EFFORTS. IN CONFORMITY WITH THE SETTLEMENT CONCEPTION OF THE LABOR PARTY, WHOM WEITZ REPRESENTS IN THE JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE, WEITZ BELIEVES THAT THAT AREA SHOULD BE LEFT FREE OF JEWISH SETTLEMENTS SO THAT IT MAY BE RETROCEDED TO ARAB CONTROL IN A FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT. THE DOCUMENT GOES WELL BEYOND LABOR'S POLICY, HOWEVER, IN SAYING THAT AMONG THE ACCEPTABLE OPTIONS FOR FINAL DISPOSITION OF THAT TERRITORY WOULD BE THE CREATION OF A DEMILITARIZED INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, ON CONDITION THAT ISRAEL RETAINS SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF THE JORDAN VALLEY. (THE OTHER TWO POSSIBILITIES WOULD BE UNION WITH JORDAN OR A FEDERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL.) IN WEITZ'S CONCEPT, ISRAELI CONTROL OF AND INTENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN THE JORDAN VALLEY WOULD SEAL OFF THE WEST BANK FROM FUTURE REMILITARIZATION AND WOULD RENDER IT HARMLESS TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY. HE ADVOCATES A SIMILAR SETTLEMENT PATTERN IN THE RAFAH APPROACHES WHICH WOULD PERMIT ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ALSO FROM THE GAZA STRIP AND PERMIT ITS AMALGAMATION TO AN ARAB-CONTROLLED WEST BANK WITHOUT MENACE TO ISRAEL. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. WEITZ'S PLAN FOR 1979-84 GIVES TOP PRIORITY TO 17 NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE JORDAN VALLEY (IN ADDITION TO THE 21 ALREADY THERE) AND 14 IN THE YAMIT REGION, PLUS 36 WITHIN THE ARAB-POPULATED REGIONS OF ISRAEL PROPER. AS A SECOND PRIORITY, WEITZ CALLS FOR 11 NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, 10 IN THE "SOUTHERN PROJECT" (RAFAH APPROACHES AND NORTHWEST NEGEV) AND 14 IN THE REST OF THE NEGEV. THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENTS WOULD HOUSE A TOTAL OF 10,000 FAMILIES AND COST IL 13.3 BILLION.

4. THE WEITZ DOCUMENT HAS EVOKED A STORM OF CRITICISM ACROSS THE ISRAELI POLITICAL SPECTRUM. JEWISH AGENCY HEAD ARYE DULZIN AND LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN SHIMON PERES IMMEDIATELY DISSOCIATED THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS FROM WEITZ'S VIEWS ON A PALESTINIAN STATE. MATITYAHU DROBLES, THE LIKUD WATCHDOG APPOINTED AS WEITZ'S "CO-DIRECTOR" WHEN THE LIKUD WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN REPLACING WEITZ AT THE RECENT WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS, IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCTED THE OVER-ALL PLANNING DEPARTMENT OF THE JEWISH AGENCY TO BEGIN DRAWING UP A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT PLAN FOR JUDEA AND SAMARIA. DROBLES REJECTED WEITZ'S DESCRIP-

TION OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA
THUS FAR AS A "PASSING HISTORICAL EPISODE", SAYING HE HAD
FOUND THEM TO BE "STRONG AND STEADFAST." A HEATED MEETING
OF THE ZIONIST EXECUTIVE (JA/WZO GOVERNING BODY) YESTERDAY
(AUGUST 28) ENDED WITH ADOPTION OF A MOATION STRESSING THAT
WEITZ'S STATEMENT DID NOT REPRESENT THE POLICY OF THE WZO
WITH RESPECT TO ITS POSITION ON EITHER SETTLEMENT IN
JUDEA AND SAMARIA OR ON A PALESTINIAN STATE. IN THE
MEANTIME, THE OFFENDING DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RETURNED TO
WEITZ FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE BY CABINET SECRETARY
NAOR WITH THE DUBIOUS EXPLANATION THAT ONLY MINISTERS CAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 11337

SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO THE CABINET.

5. COMMENT: WEITZ'S OPPOSITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK HIGHLANDS IS A MATTER OF
LONG STANDING, AND IS WELL KNOWN TO THOSE FAMILIAR WITH
TRADITIONAL JA/WZO PREDILECTIONS. LONG GUIDED BY THE
CONCEPTS OF THE ALLON PLAN, THE SETTLEMENTS SECTION HAS
TAKEN NO INITIATIVES IN THIS REGION AND HAS GRUDGINGLY

COLLABORATED WITH GUSH EMUNIM'S ACTIVITIES ONLY WHEN DIRECTLY ORDERED TO DO SO BY THE GOVERNMENT. EVEN WEITZ'S VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WERE CLEARLY STATED OVER FIVE YEARS AGO IN A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "FACING THE FUTURE" AND PUBLICLY REITERATED

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WITHIN THE LAST 18 MONTHS IN A BRIEFING FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS. WHILE NEVER IN CONFORMITY WITH OFFICIAL LABOR PARTY POLICY, TO THE LIKUD REGIME WEITZ'S VIEWS ON THE LATTER SUBJECT, WHICH MAY NOT PREVIOUSLY HAVE COME TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION, AMOUNT TO OUTRIGHT HERESY.

6. ACCORDING TO HAARETZ'S YEHUDA LITANI, WEITZ'S DECISION TO GO PUBLIC AGAIN AT THIS TIME IS A RESULT OF HIS FRUSTRATION OVER HIS INABILITY TO PREVENT THE SLAPDASH GUSH EMUNIM-INSPIRED SETTLEMENT PROGRAM IN THE SAMARIAN HIGHLANDS, WHICH HE SEES AS THREATENING FOR ALL TIME THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH THE ARABS. HOWEVER LAUDABLE WEITZ'S EFFORT, IT COMES TOO LATE TO REVERSE THE INROADS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE WEST BANK HIGHLANDS OVER THE LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH HE MAY WELL SURVIVE EFFORTS TO OUST HIM, BECAUSE OF HIS STRONG TIES WITH THE AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE, HE HAS PROBABLY SACRIFICED MUCH OF HIS EFFECTIVENESS, AND MAY INADVERTENTLY HAVE FUELED EFFORTS OF GROUPS LIKE GUSH EMUNIM TO FORCE THE PACE OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN THE WEST BANK HEARTLAND. HART

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Message Attributes

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